

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 7, lines 26 - page 8, line 8, please amend as follows:

Figure 4 is a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:23) comparison of wild type *Mth* RIR1 intein and synthetic *Mth* RIR1 intein indicating the location of 61 silent base mutations designed to increase expression in *E. coli*. DNA alignment of the wild type *Mth* RIR1 intein (top strand) (SEQ ID NO:23) and the synthetic *Mth* RIR1 intein (bottom strand) (SEQ ID NO:25). To increase expression levels in *E. coli*, 61 silent base changes were made in 49 separate codons when creating the synthetic gene. The first and last codons of the wild type *Mth* RIR1 intein are shown in bold.